

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 12639 221805Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
IO-13 AGRE-00 /083 W

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R 221706Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2670  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2925  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12639

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC EX  
SUBJECT: NEXT ROUND IN EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 10888 (B) EC BRUSSELS 11132

1. WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL IN EC COMMISSION'S DG VIII  
(DEVELOPMENT) TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT AT DECEMBER 9-10 MEETING  
IN THE HAGUE BETWEEN EC DUTCH PRESIDENCY, COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND  
ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING (AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL) OF EURO-  
ARAB DIALOGUE WILL BE HELD IN TUNIS FEBRUARY 10-12. COMMIS-  
SION IS APPARENTLY AWAITING FINAL CONFIRMATION OF DATES FROM  
ARAB INTERLOCUTORS.

2. HAGUE MEETING REVIEWED PREPARATORY WORK OF VARIOUS  
WORKING GROUPS WHICH, ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIAL,  
STILL STANDS ABOUT AS REPORTED IN REF A AND PREVIOUS TELE-  
GRAMS. COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THE TWO MAJOR ISSUES WHICH  
GENERAL COMMITTEE WILL APPARENTLY HAVE TO FACE ARE: (A) HOW  
TO RESOLVE IMPASSE ON TRADE ISSUE - SINCE ARABS ARE STILL ASKING  
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 12639 221805Z

FOR PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, WHICH EC IS UNWILLING TO GRANT  
(REF A); AND (B) QUESTION OF WHICH SIDE IS TO PAY, AND HOW MUCH,  
FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND JOINT PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SECTORS WHICH MIGHT BE AGREED TO BY THE  
DIALOGUE. WHILE JOINT FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO  
MEET JANUARY 10-12, COMMISSION OFFICIAL DOUBTED IT WOULD BE

ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON FUNDING QUESTION AND THOUGHT ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE BUCKED UP TO GENERAL COMMITTEE.

3. IN A RELATED COMMENT, COMMISSION OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THE FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP'S INVESTMENT PROTECTION SUB GROUP, WHICH WILL ALSO MEET IN JANUARY, COULD CONCEIVABLY REACH AGREEMENT ON A SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING PROTECTION OF EACH SIDE'S INVESTMENTS AGAINST NON-COMMERCIAL RISKS (REF B) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. THIS OFFICIAL CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN MORE CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THIS SUB-GROUP AND IN THE AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP (ECA-488) THAN IN ANY OF THE DIALOGUE'S OTHER SUBSTANTIVE WORKING GROUPS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION WORKING GROUP, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS TOWARD A CODE ON CONTRACT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN FIRMS (BONN 19928).

4. IN REPLY TO MISSION OFFICER'S QUESTION, COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NEITHER THE EC NOR THE ARABS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING VERY HEAVILY ON THE DIALOGUE IN RECENT WEEKS (EXCEPT FOR DECEMBER 10-11 HAGUE MEETING MENTIONED ABOVE), COMMISSION AND COREPER WILL START FOCUSING ON PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN TUNIS SOON AFTER THE NEW YEAR. MISSION WILL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE COMMISSION AND PERMDEL OFFICIALS AS THOSE PREPARATIONS PROGRESS. HINTON

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